



# PARASHURAMA

SIXTH INCARNATION OF VISHNU

Vol 764 |

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# PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.



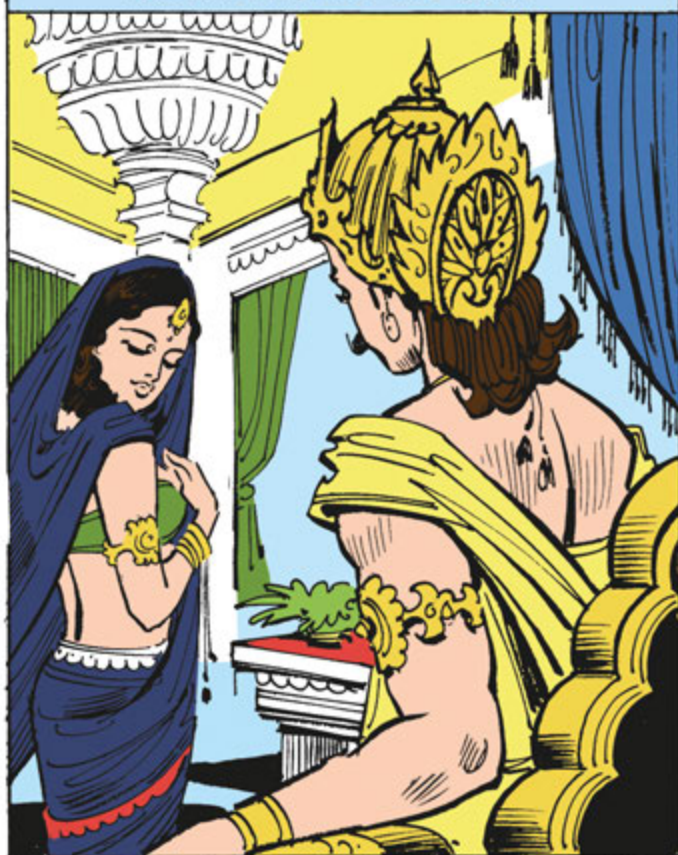
HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,  
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE  
FORTUNATE THAT  
OUR KING IS  
STRONG AND  
KIND.

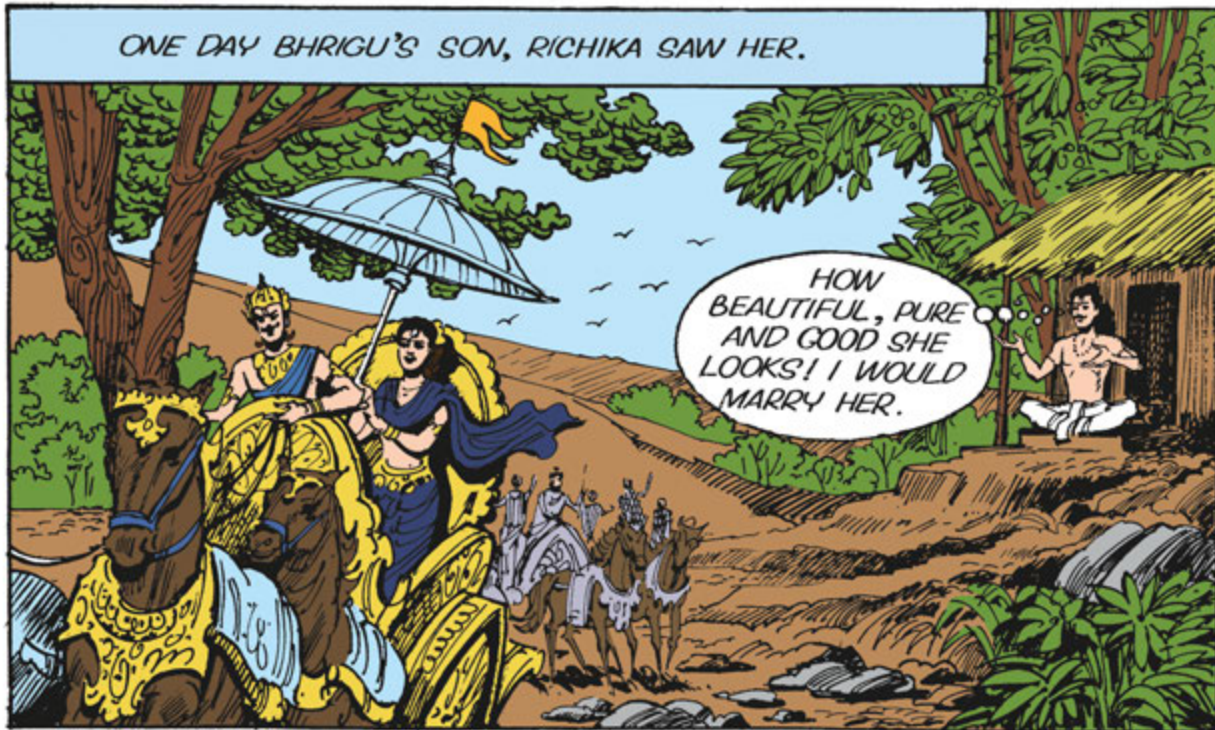
YES.  
AS LONG AS  
HE RULES,  
WE NEED  
FEAR NONE.



GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED  
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHKA SAW HER.





HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE  
COME TO YOU  
SEEKING YOUR  
DAUGHTER'S  
HAND.

I AM HONoured,  
GREAT SAGE.  
BUT...

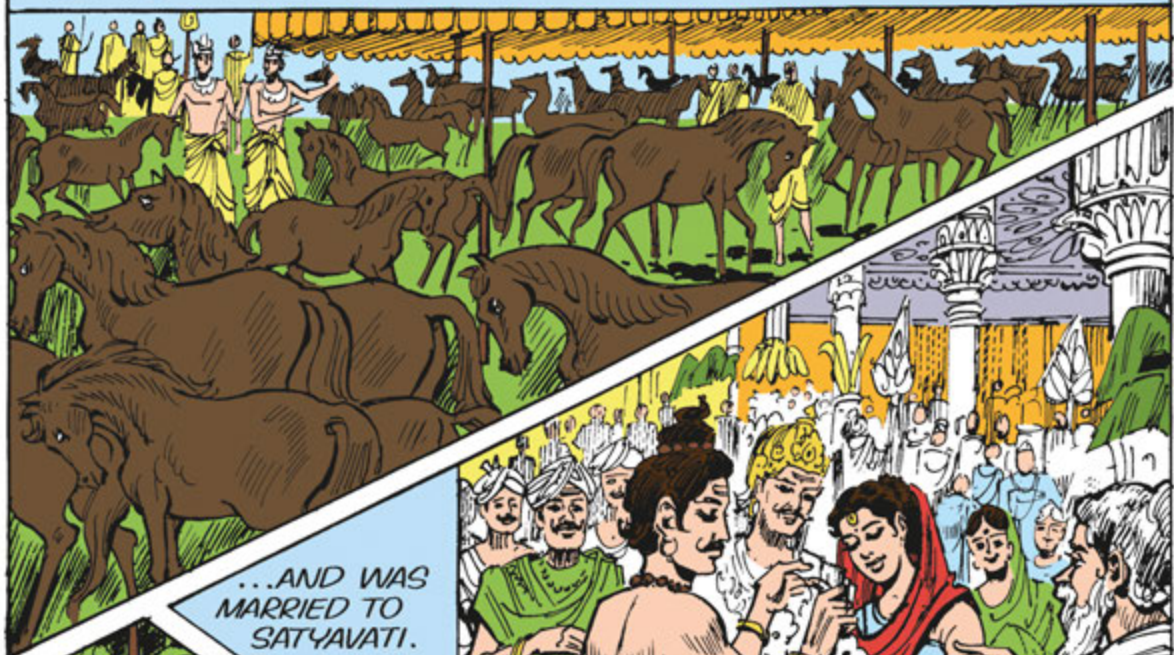
...YOU WILL HAVE  
TO BRING A DOWRY  
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.  
IT IS THE CUSTOM  
IN OUR  
FAMILY.

CAN YOU?

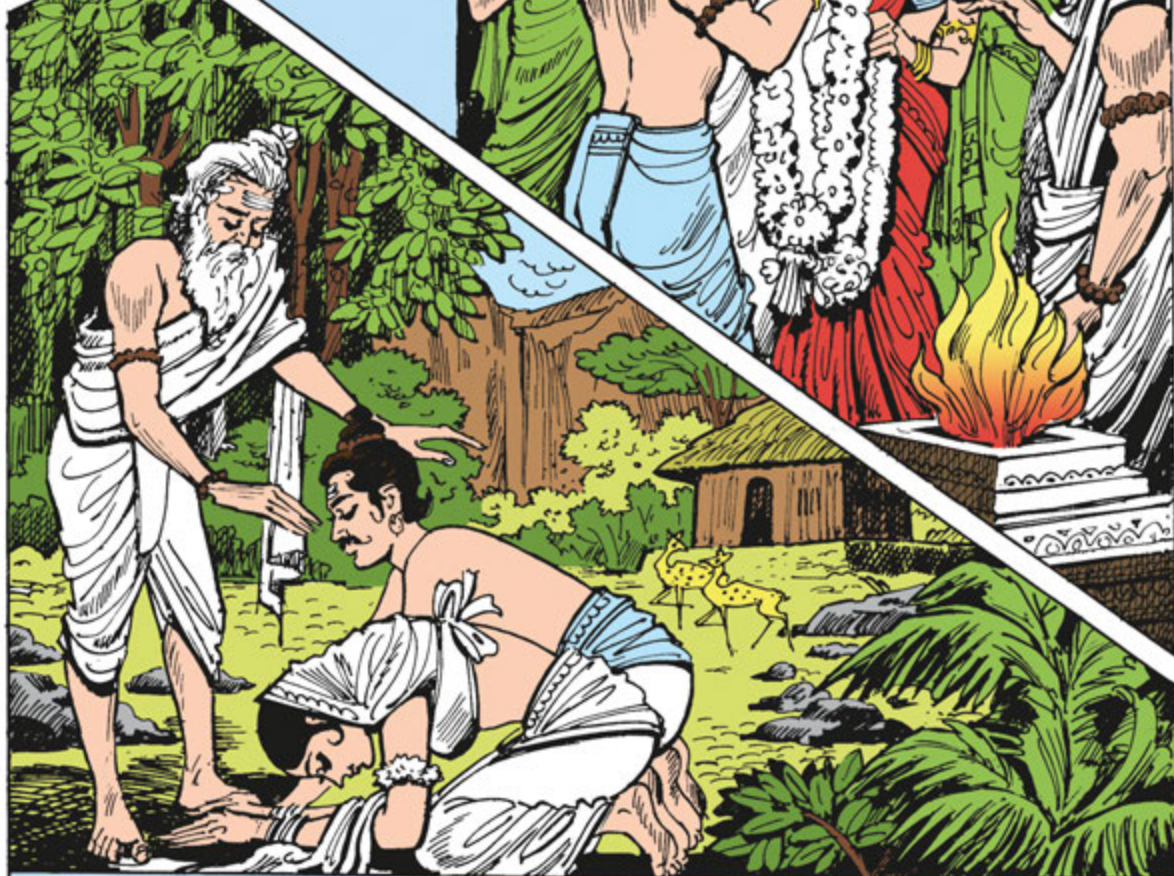
IS THAT ALL?  
IT SHOULD  
NOT BE VERY  
DIFFICULT.



SO RICHIKA GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



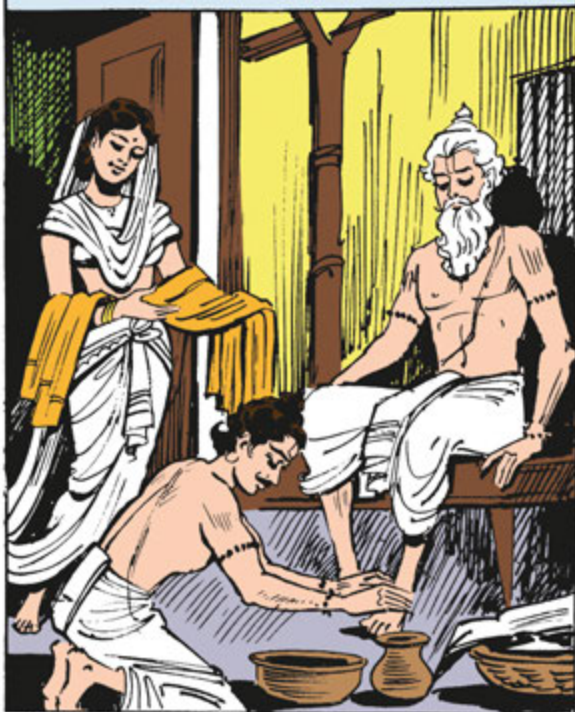
...AND WAS  
MARRIED TO  
SATYAVATI.



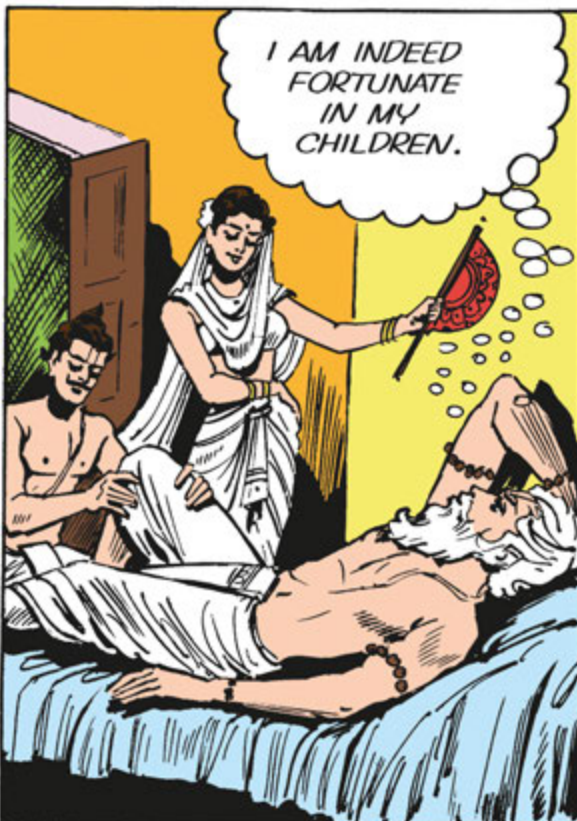
ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.



THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS  
WITH AFFECTION.



I AM INDEED  
FORTUNATE  
IN MY  
CHILDREN.



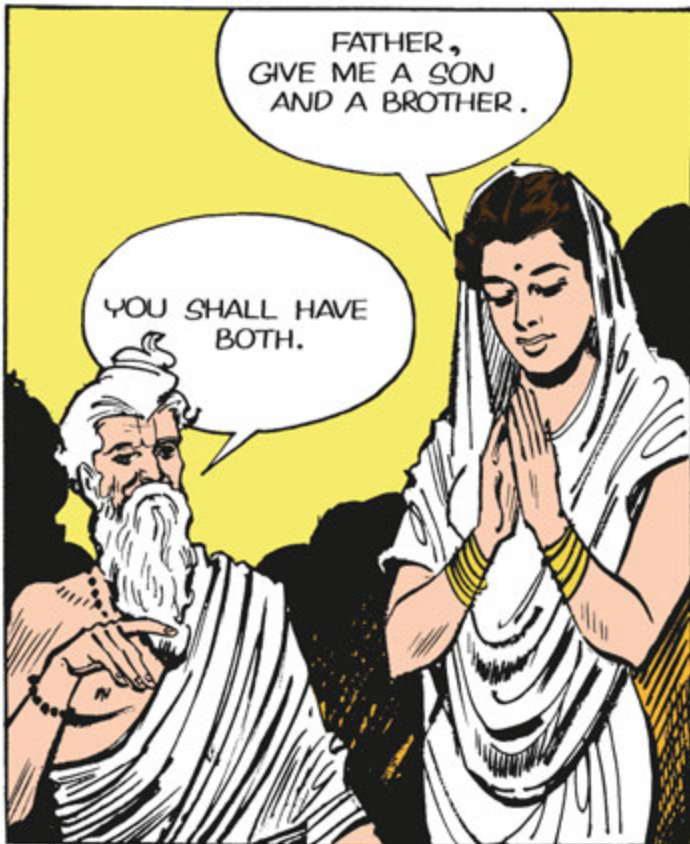
BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT  
AND DUTIFUL  
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,  
I AM  
WILLING TO  
GRANT YOU  
ANY BOON  
YOU  
ASK  
OF  
ME.



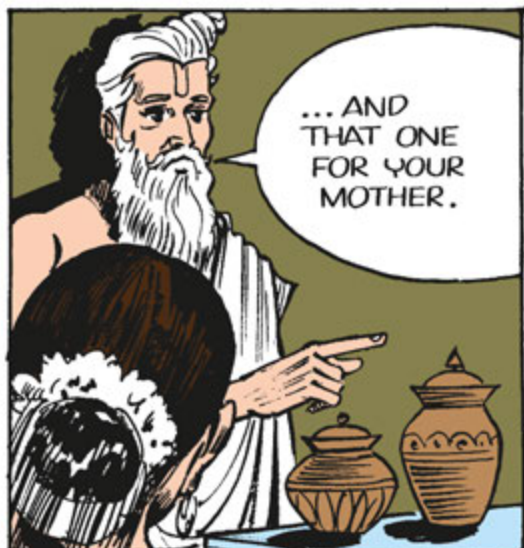
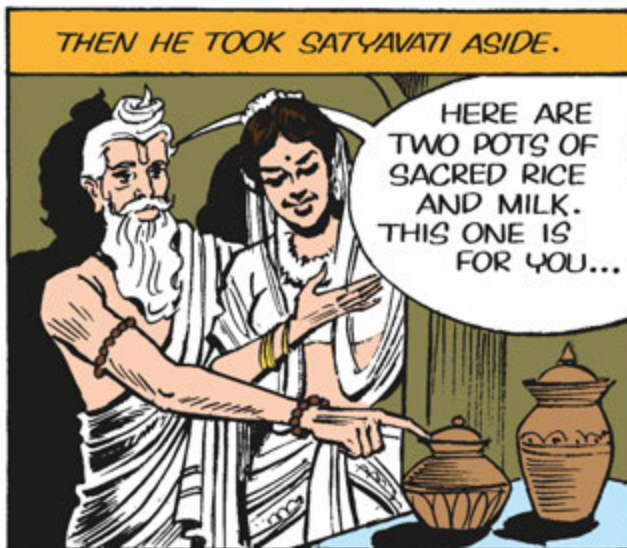
FATHER,  
GIVE ME A SON  
AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE  
BOTH.





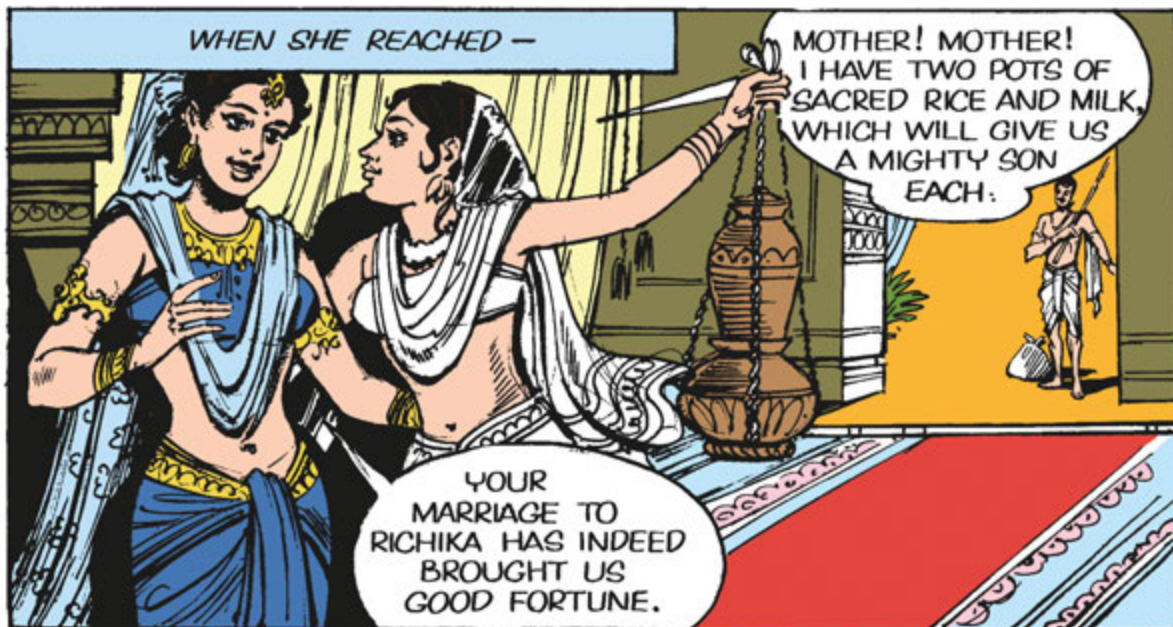
THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.



WHEN BHRIGU LEFT, SATYAVATI PICKED THE POTS AND ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND WENT TO HER MOTHER



WHEN SHE REACHED —

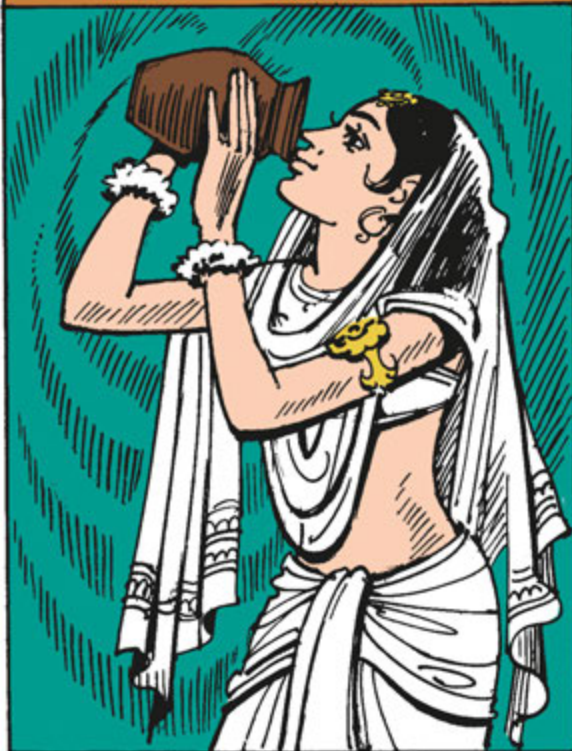




BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT  
MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...

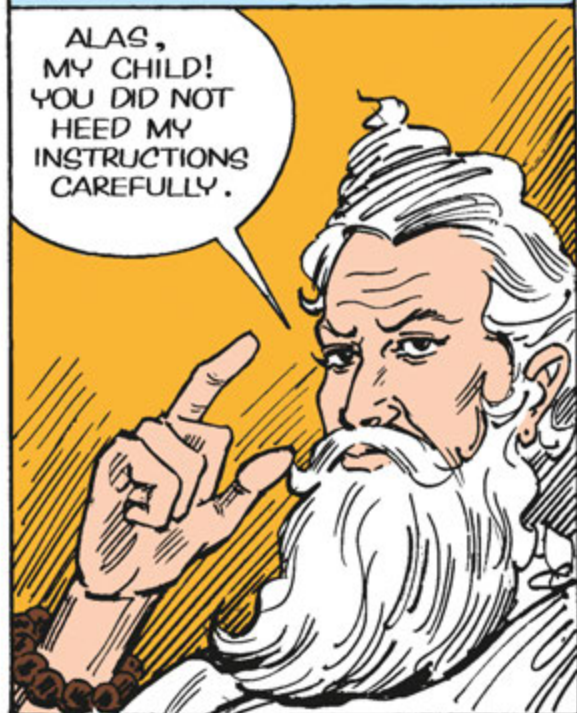


...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT  
FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL  
VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,  
MY CHILD!  
YOU DID NOT  
HEED MY  
INSTRUCTIONS  
CAREFULLY.



NOW,  
YOUR MOTHER'S  
SON THOUGH A  
KSHATRIYA, WILL  
TAKE TO THE  
LIFE OF AN  
ASCETIC.





AND YOUR SON  
THOUGH A BRAHMANA,  
WILL BECOME  
A WARRIOR.



SATYAVATI BEGAN  
PLEADING WITH BHRIGU.

O REVERED SIRE,  
LET MY GRANDSON  
BE SUCH  
BUT NOT  
MY SON.



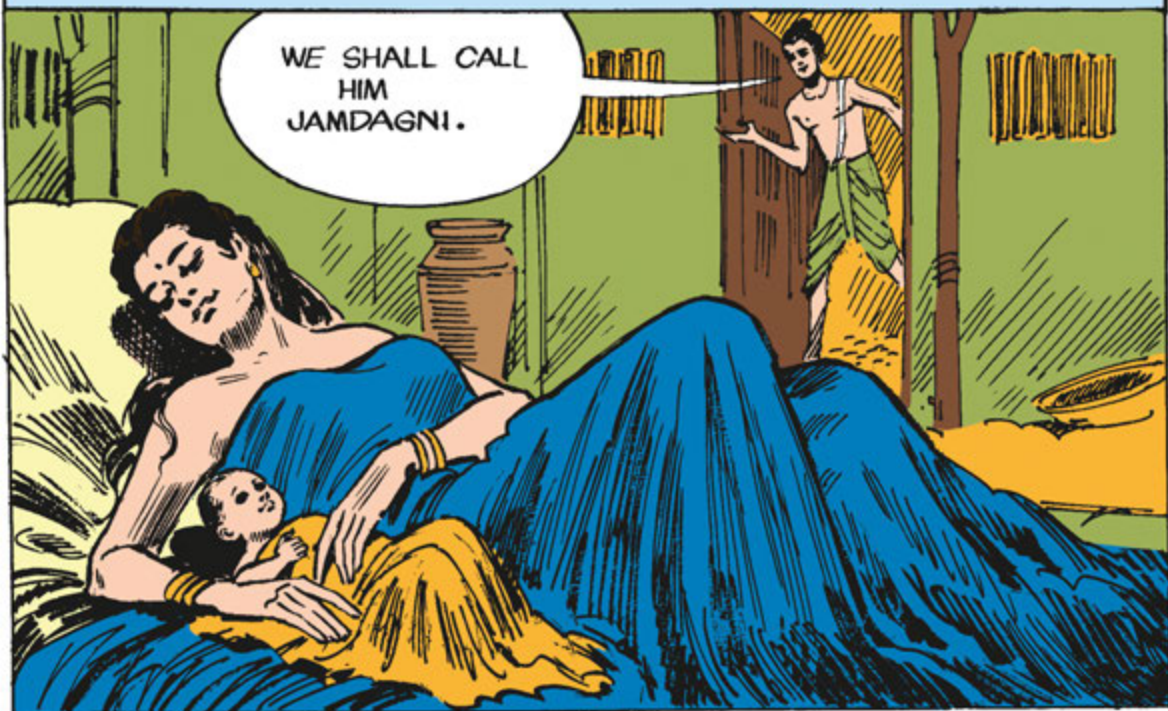
BHRIGU WAS MOVED  
BY HER ENTREATIES.

SO BE IT,  
MY CHILD.  
SO BE IT.



IN DUE TIME SATYAVATI HAD A SON.

WE SHALL CALL  
HIM  
JAMDAGNI.





AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



MOST OF THE KSHATRIYAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHAYA TRIBE.



MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA  
IS HERE!



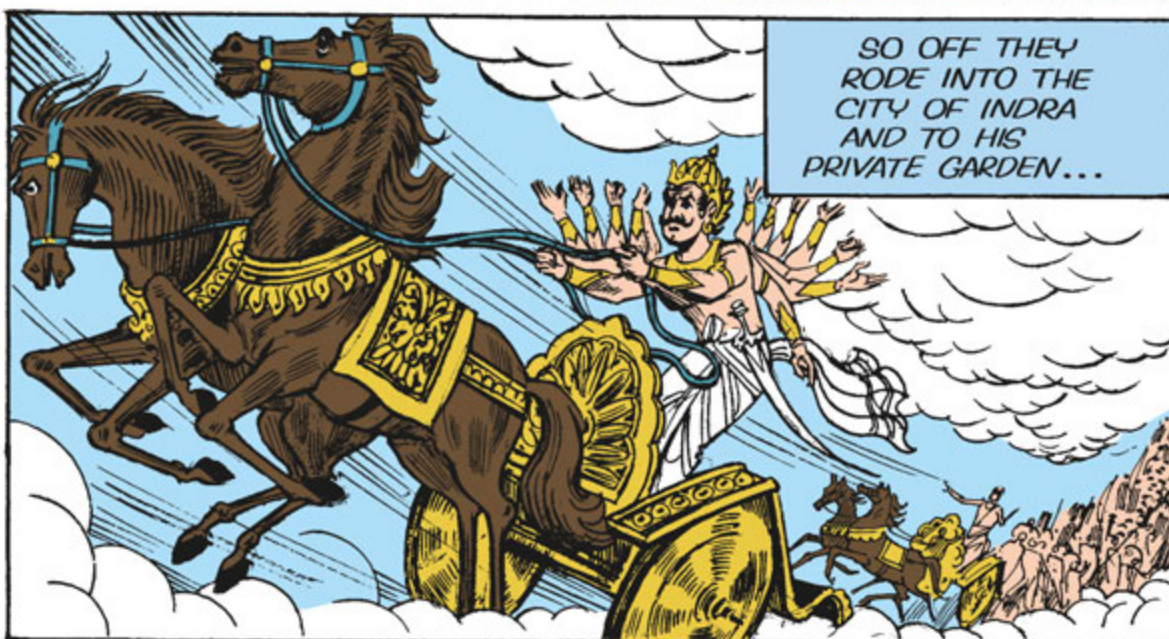


SUDDENLY HE HAD AN IDEA.

WHY WASTE OUR TIME  
HERE WITH THESE PUNY  
MORTALS. LET US RIDE  
INTO THE CITY OF INDRA,  
KING OF THE GODS.



SO OFF THEY  
RODE INTO THE  
CITY OF INDRA  
AND TO HIS  
PRIVATE GARDEN...





...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES  
OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE  
VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND  
SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



SO THEY WENT TO  
LORD VISHNU.





AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,  
INDRA ENTERED.



I WILL TAKE AN  
AVATAR ON EARTH  
AS A BRAHMANA WITH  
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL  
PROWESS AND  
OVERPOWER HIM.



MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.





THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...



...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.





RAMA SOON GREW UP INTO A STURDY YOUTH. ONE DAY -

FATHER, I WISH TO GO TO THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAINS AND BY AUSTERE PENANCES GAIN LORD SHIVA'S FAVOUR.

GO IF YOU MUST, MY SON. YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.



RAMA WENT AND SAT IN MEDITATION AND UNDERWENT SEVERE PENANCES.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASSED ME BY YOUR DEVOTION. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY HEART ON THE FIERY AXE, THE POWERFUL PARASHU.

AS YOU DESERVE, YOU SHALL HAVE IT. NO WARRIOR ON EARTH SHALL SURPASS YOU.





AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.

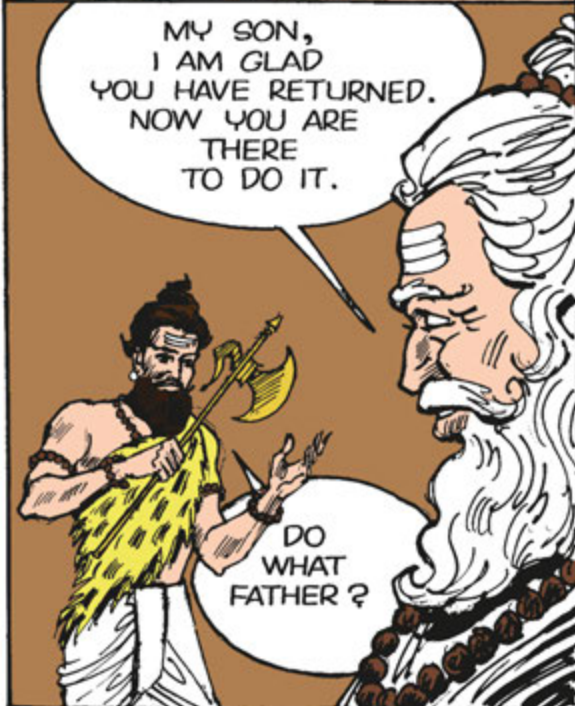


TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM.

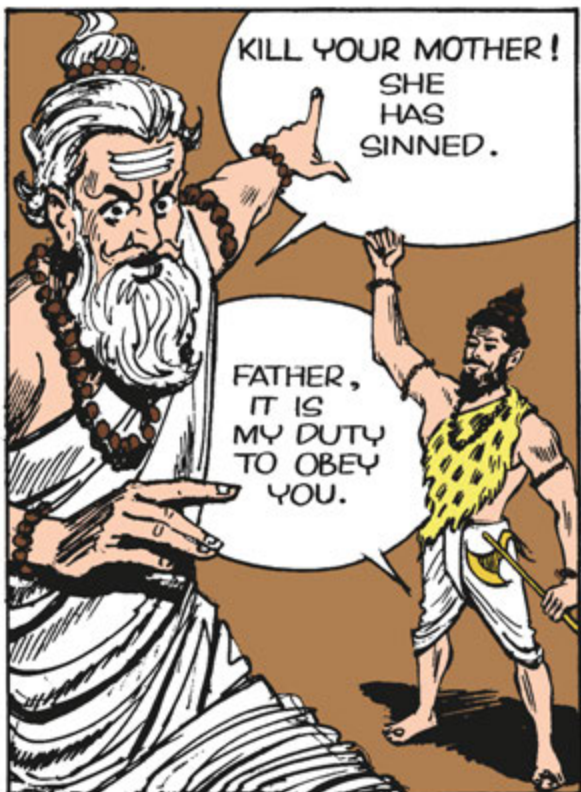
MY SON,  
I AM GLAD  
YOU HAVE RETURNED.  
NOW YOU ARE  
THERE  
TO DO IT.



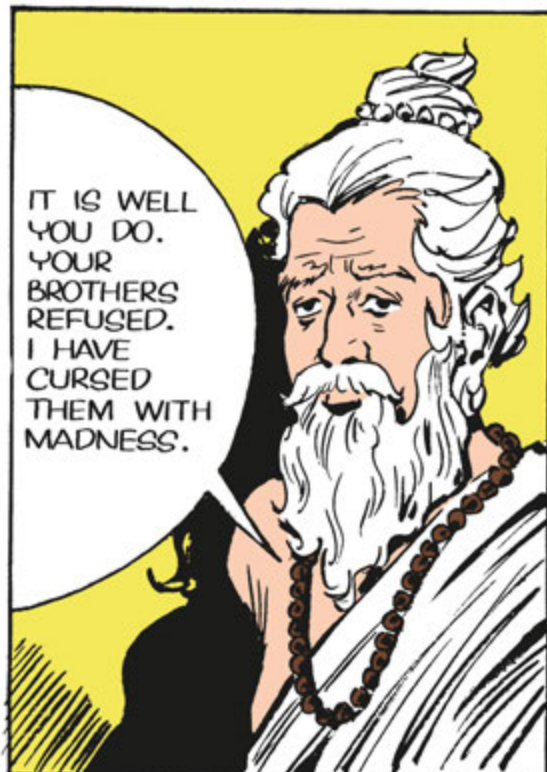
DO  
WHAT  
FATHER ?

KILL YOUR MOTHER !  
SHE  
HAS  
SINNED .

FATHER ,  
IT IS  
MY DUTY  
TO OBEY  
YOU .







PARASHURAMA, WITH ONE BLOW OF HIS AXE, KILLED HIS MOTHER.

YOUR UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE PLEASURES ME. ASK ANY BOON AND IT SHALL BE YOURS.

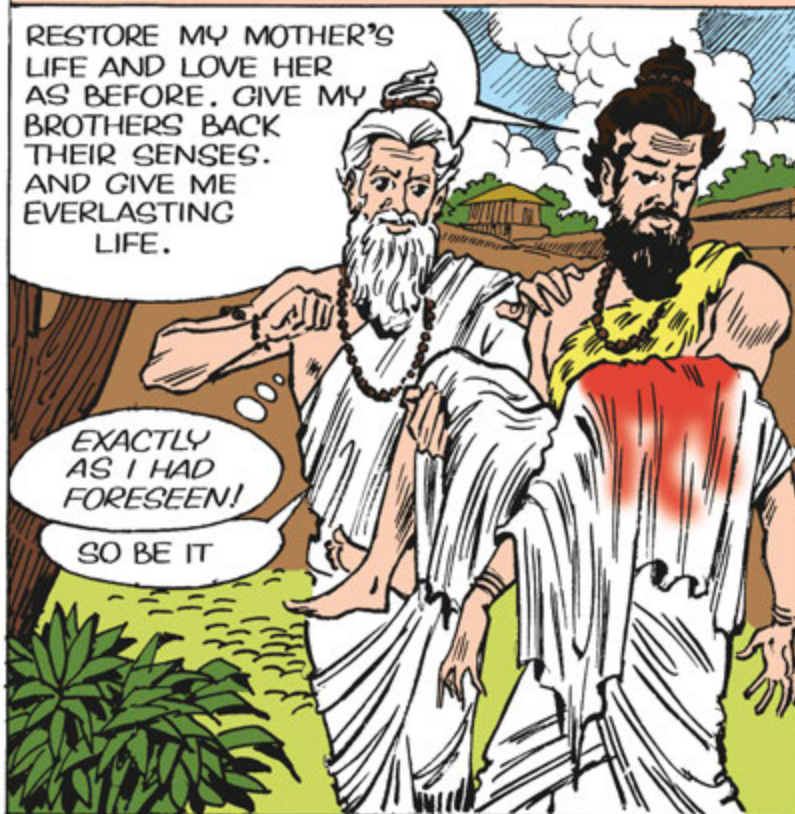


THIS WAS WHAT PARASHURAMA WAS WAITING FOR.

RESTORE MY MOTHER'S LIFE AND LOVE HER AS BEFORE. GIVE MY BROTHERS BACK THEIR SENSES. AND GIVE ME EVERLASTING LIFE.

EXACTLY AS I HAD FORESEEN!

SO BE IT

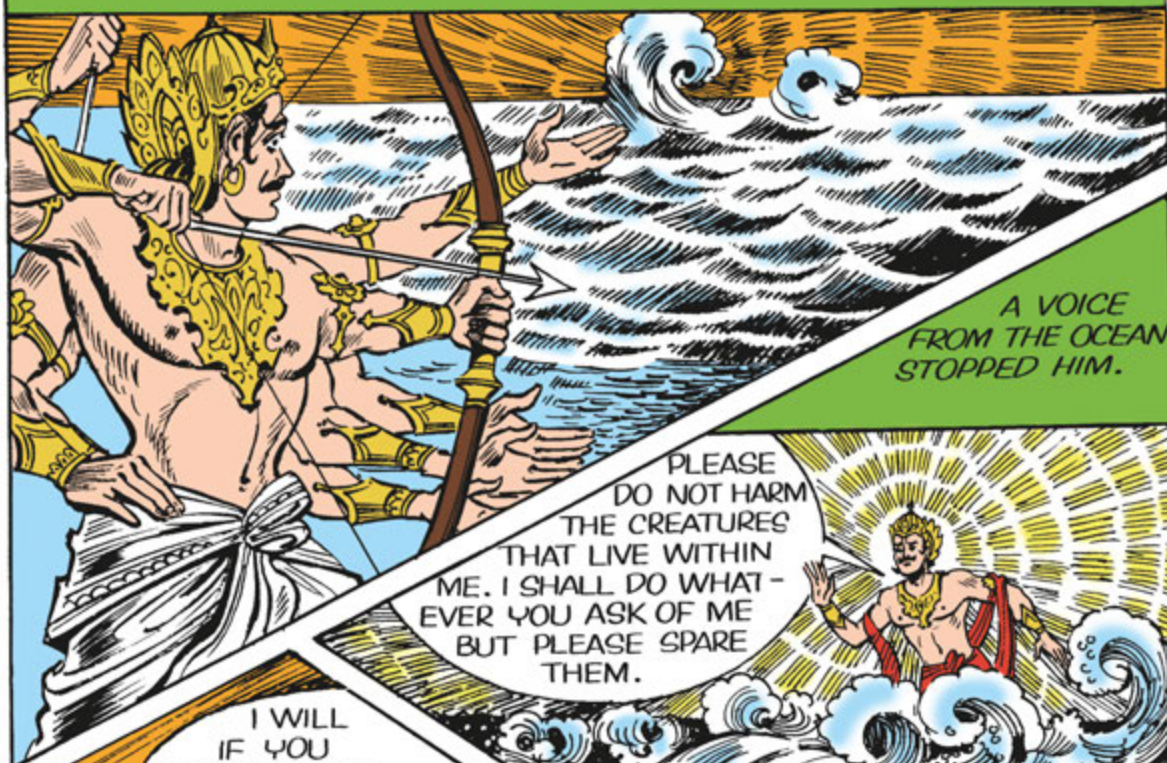


JAMADAGNI WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO GRANT HIM HIS BOONS.





MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.

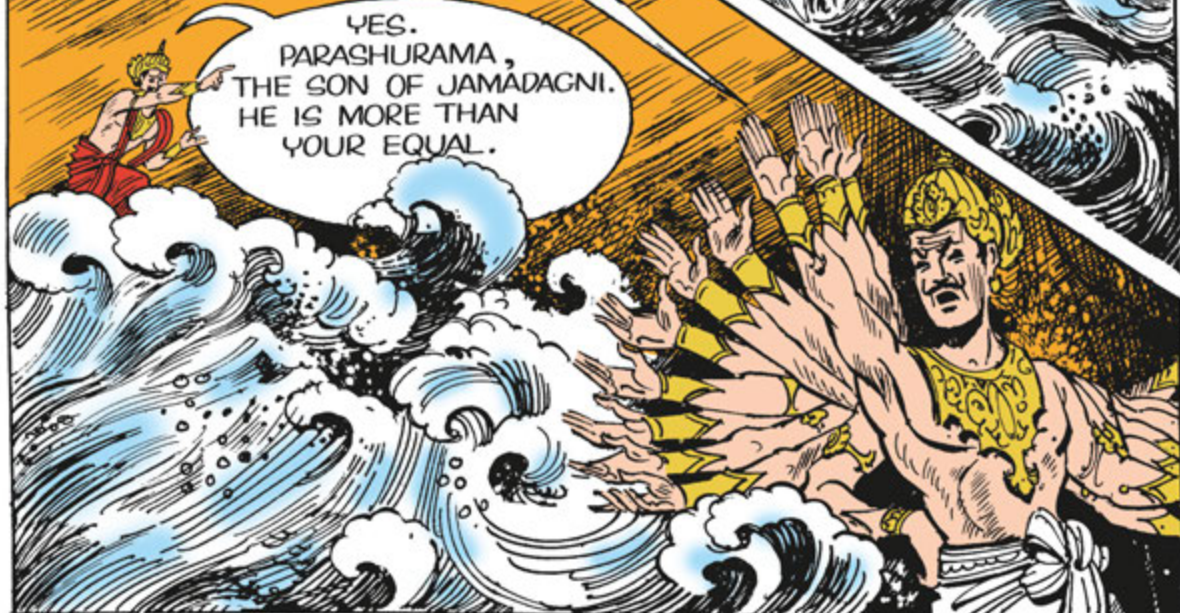


A VOICE  
FROM THE OCEAN  
STOPPED HIM.

PLEASE  
DO NOT HARM  
THE CREATURES  
THAT LIVE WITHIN  
ME. I SHALL DO WHAT-  
EVER YOU ASK OF ME  
BUT PLEASE SPARE  
THEM.

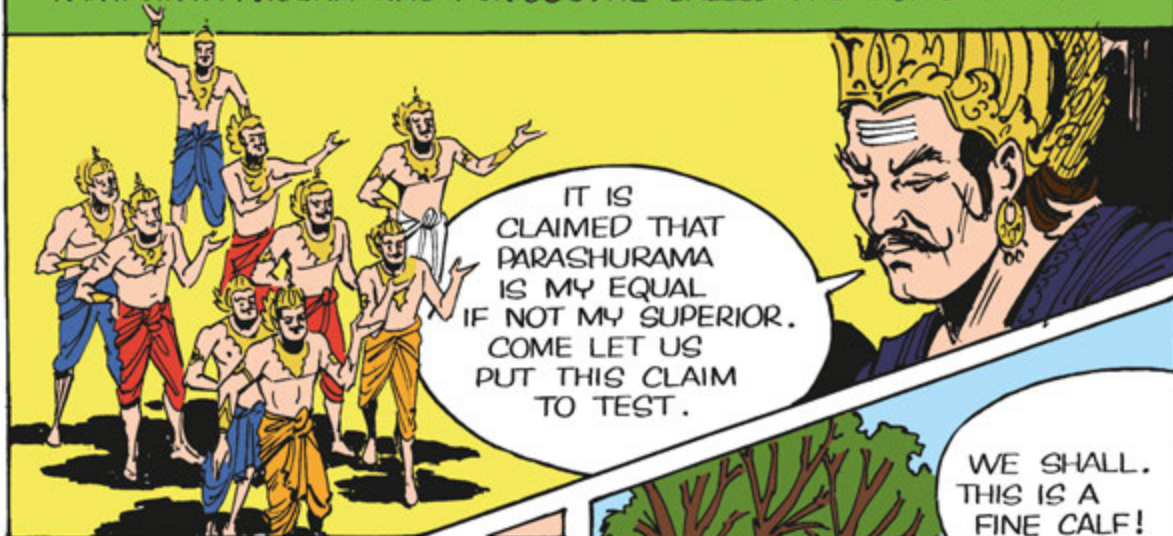
I WILL  
IF YOU  
ANSWER THIS  
QUESTION. IS THERE  
A MAN WHO CAN  
RIVAL ME ?

YES.  
PARASHURAMA,  
THE SON OF JAMADAGNI.  
HE IS MORE THAN  
YOUR EQUAL.





KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



SO THEY WENT TO JAMADAGNI'S ASHRAM.



\*THE MILK OF THE HOMA COW IS USED FOR SACRIFICES ETC.



THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT OF THE ASHRAM —

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA RETURNED.  
HE SAW THEM.



ALAS!  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA HAS  
REPAID OUR  
HOSPITALITY  
BY STEALING  
YOUR CALF.

WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED TO HER,  
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO  
SAD? WHERE IS HER  
CALF? WHY ARE THEY  
SEPARATED?





JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM  
THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL  
KILL HIM  
AND  
REDEEM  
YOUR  
CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE  
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF  
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF,  
HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER.  
HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.





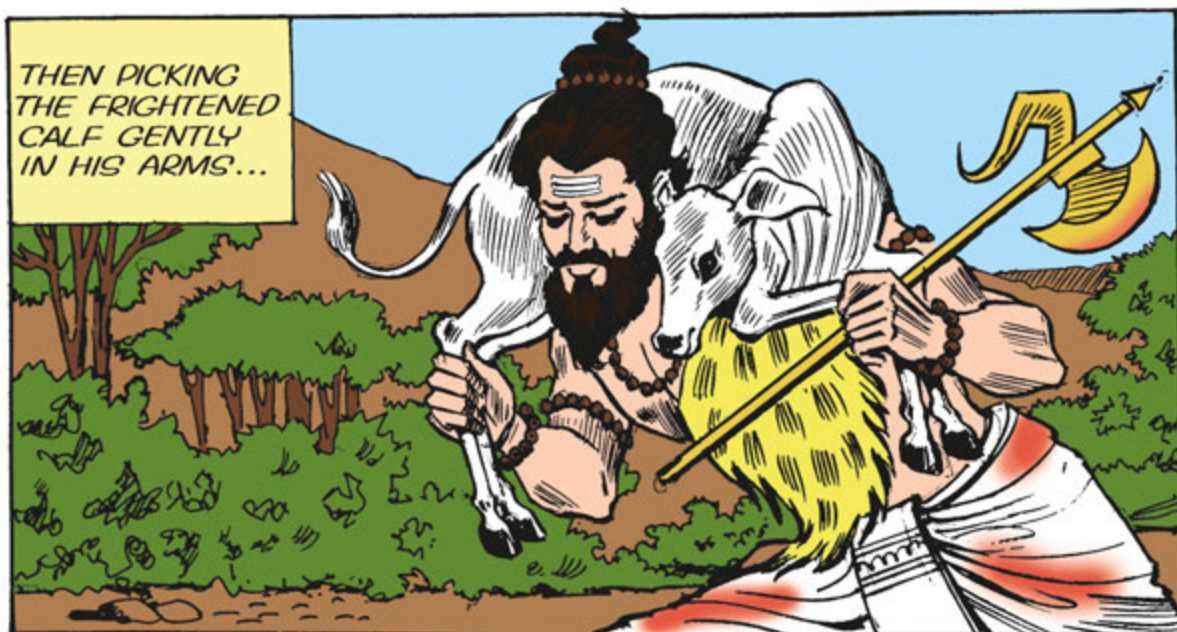
A DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



...SLEW HIM.



THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...





...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW  
AND -



IN THE MEANWHILE -





THEY WERE FURIOUS.



THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM, JAMADAGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.

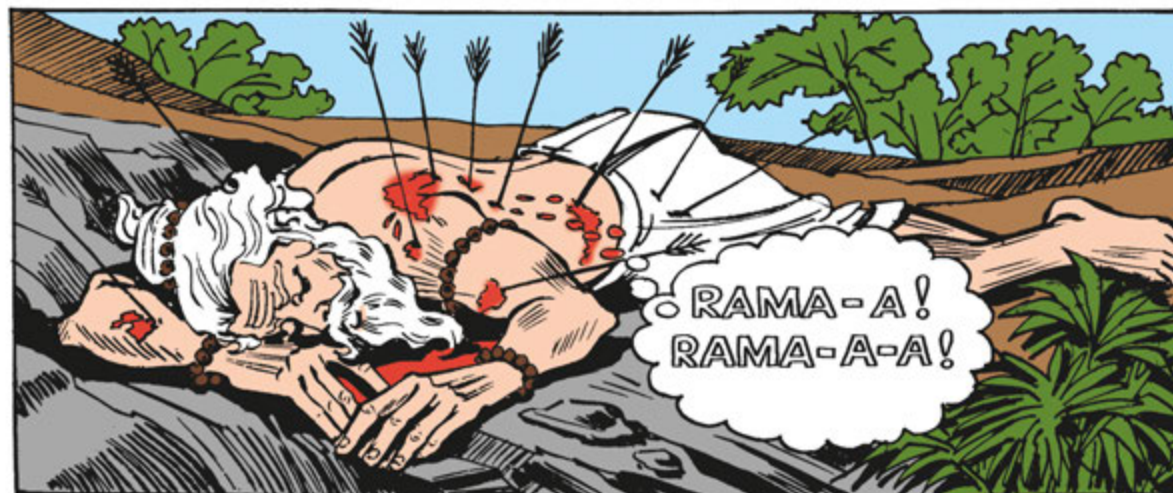
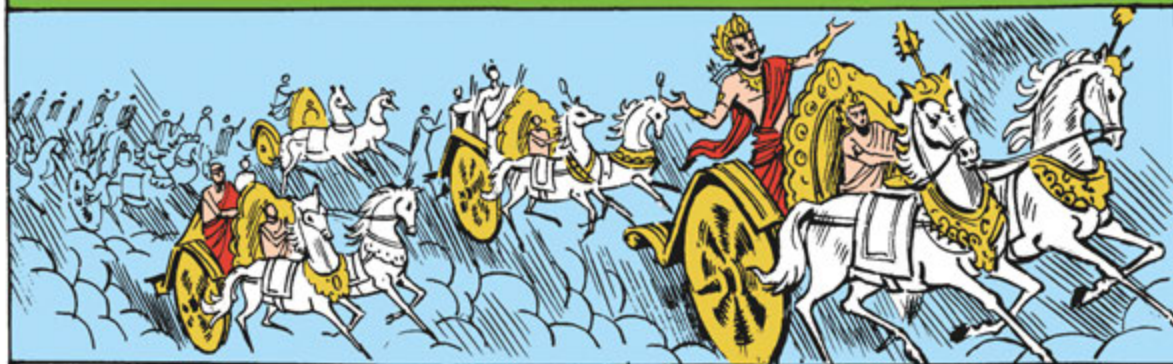




THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM  
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.



THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.







JUST THEN  
PARASHURAMA  
RETURNED  
FROM THE  
FOREST.

FATHER!  
FATHER! IT IS  
MY FAULT THAT  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
SHOT DOWN LIKE A  
STAG BY THE MERCILESS  
ARROWS OF THE MEAN  
SONS OF ARJUNA.



WITH  
WHAT FACE  
WILL THEY RETURN  
TO THEIR FRIENDS  
AND SERVANTS  
AFTER COMMITTING  
SUCH A HEINOUS  
CRIME ?





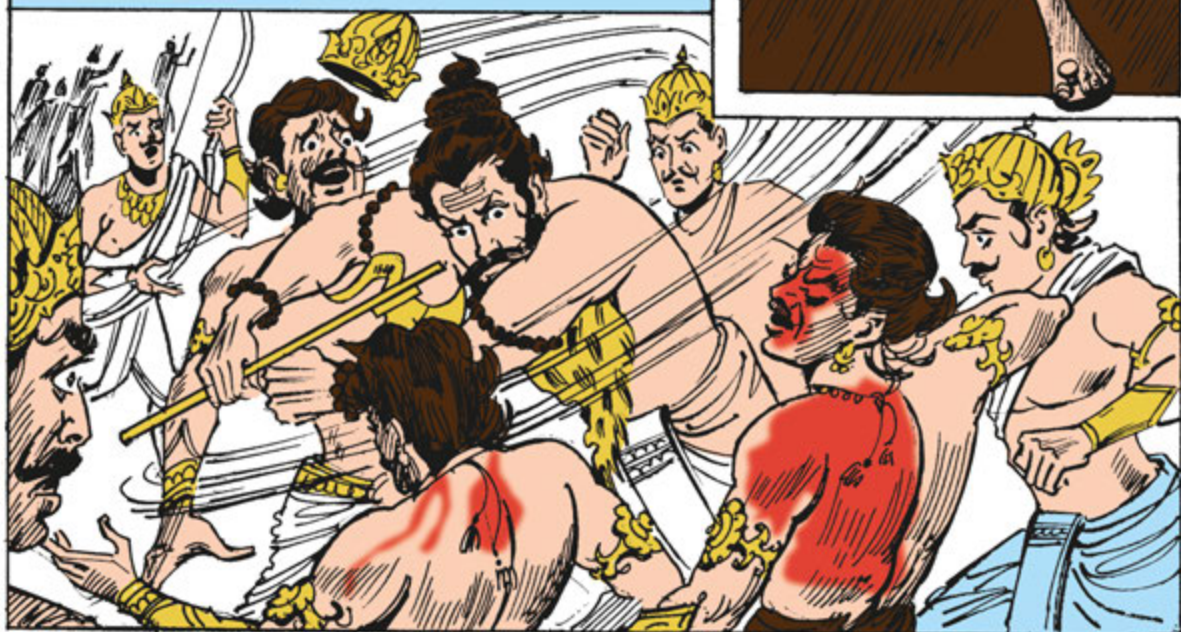
AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.

I SHALL NOT REST,  
DEAR FATHER,  
TILL I HAVE WIPED OUT  
THE ENTIRE MARTIAL  
RACE OF THE  
KSHATRIYAS.

WHEN THE LAST EMBERS  
DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS  
AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-  
IMPOSED TASK.

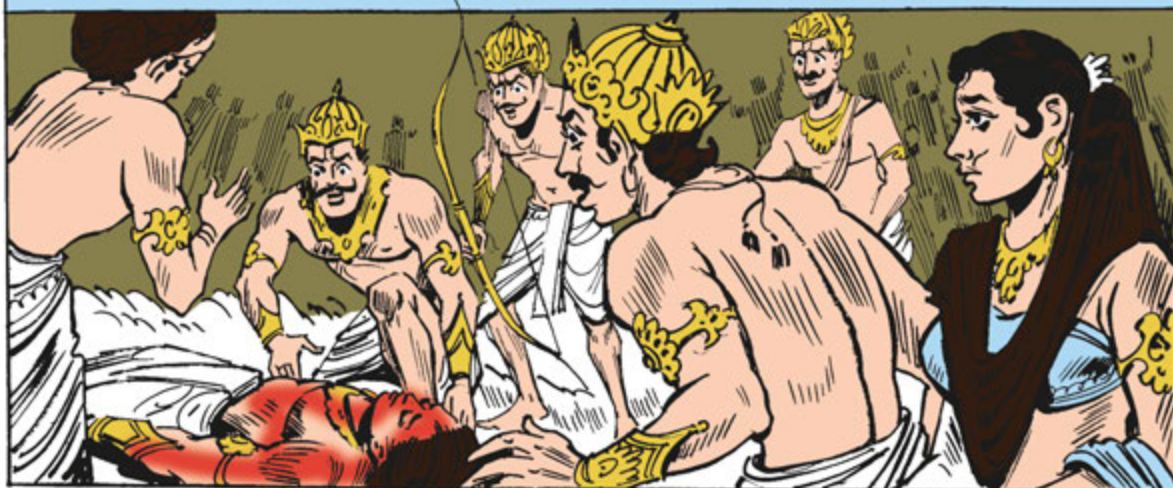


KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE  
FIRST TO BE WIPED OUT.





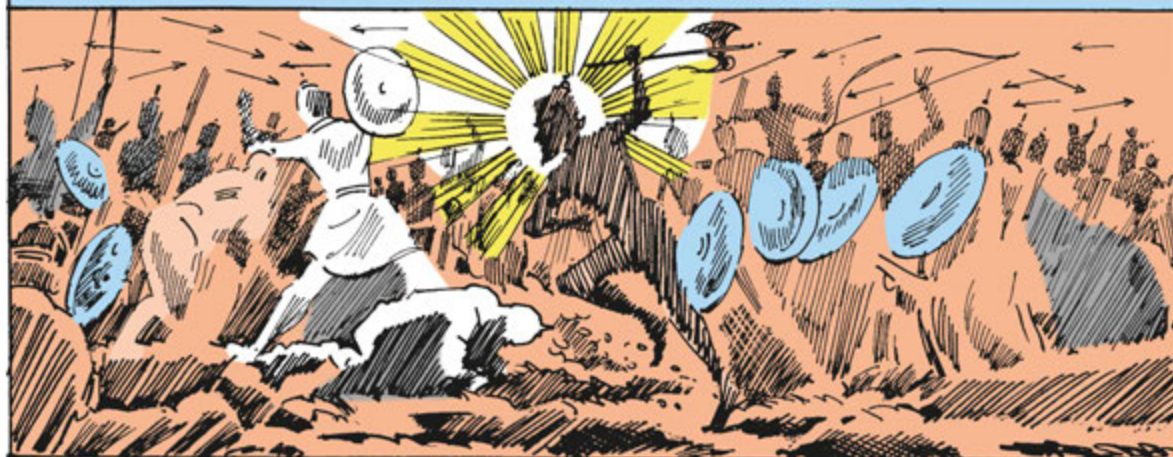
THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.





BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION??



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

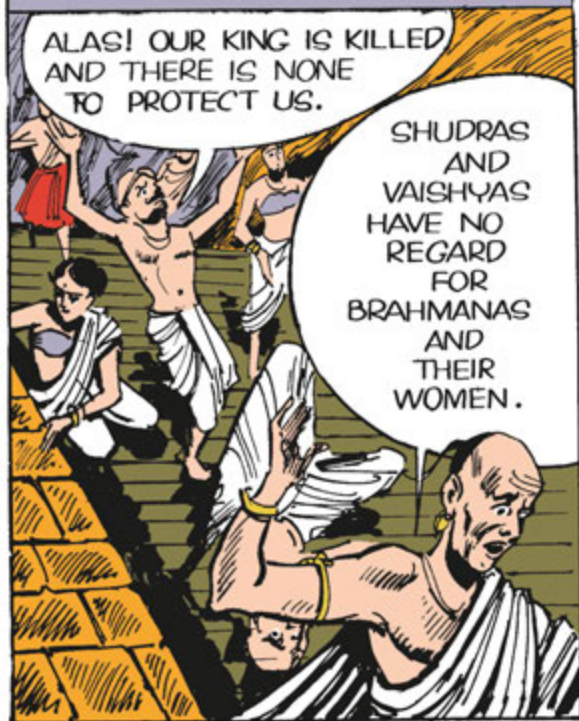
ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.



I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.



SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHYAPA.

LORD  
PARASHURAMA'S  
WORK IS OVER.  
I AM RELIEVED  
OF MY BURDEN.  
PLEASE  
STOP HIM NOW.

I WILL SPEAK  
TO THE SPIRITS  
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHYAPA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,  
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.

PARASHURAMA'S  
MISSION IS OVER.  
IT IS NOW  
TIME FOR HIM  
TO DESIST.

SO SHALL IT BE.  
HE WILL OBEY  
HIS ANCESTORS.



AND RICHIKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS —





PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHARADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.

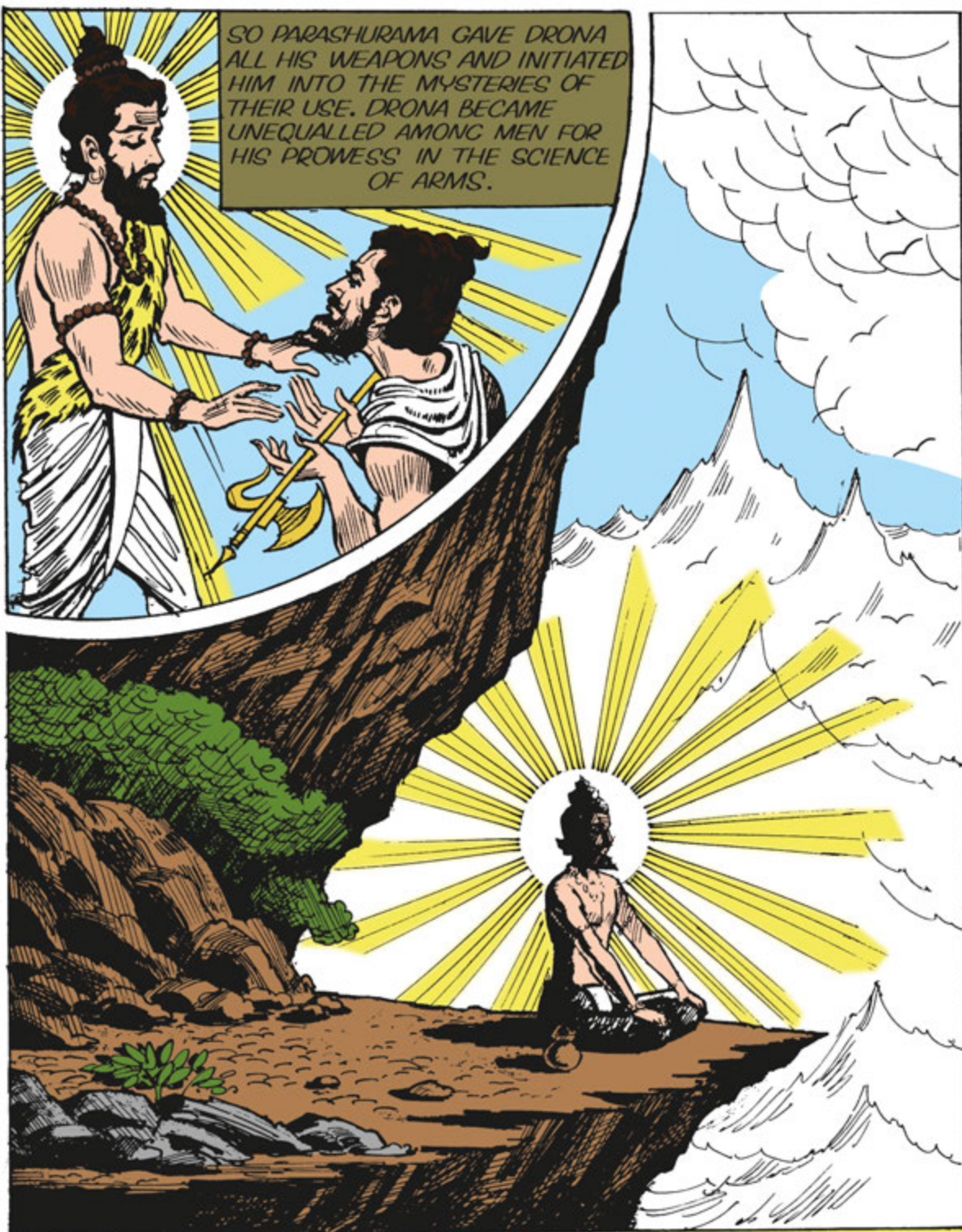
ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.

I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.





SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



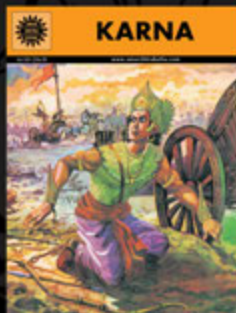
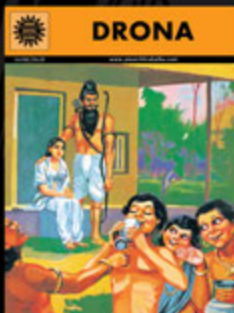
AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.



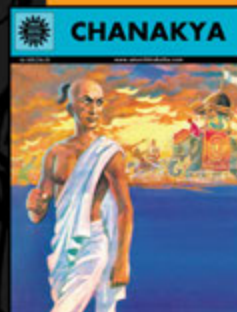
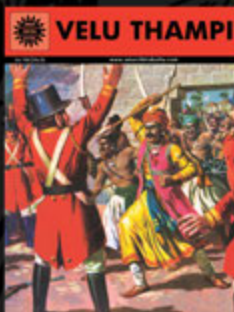
## PARASHURAMA

It was a time when the earth was ravaged with violence and bloodshed. The Kshatriya kings had forgotten their duty to rule with compassion. Instead, they subdued the people by unleashing a reign of brutal terror. At such a time the sixth incarnation of Vishnu was born. Parashurama, axe-wielding warrior-saint, strode across the age to destroy evil and liberate good.

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